

# *VSS News at a Glance*

*Victims Services Section  
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*



## **Victims' Rights Advocates Recognized**

### **Jeff Dion Receives National Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award from Office for Victims of Crime**

Jeffrey R. Dion has been fighting to advance the cause of crime victims' rights for more than two decades. He served as a Governor's Fellow in the Office of the Virginia Attorney General and law clerk to the judges of Virginia's 17th Judicial Circuit. In 1995, Jeff joined a homicide survivors' support group sponsored by the Fairfax County Police Department. As a grassroots lobbyist in the Virginia General Assembly, Jeff was successful in having 13 bills enacted into law. In 1998, Jeff joined the staff of the National Center for Victims of Crime, where he serves as Deputy Director for the National Crime Victim Bar Association. In 2002, Jeff was appointed by Governor Warner to the Criminal Justice Services Board, where he chairs the Victim/Witness Issues Advisory Committee. In 2005, he was honored by the Northern Virginia Victims' Alliance as a Champion of Justice, and by DCJS as one of the individuals who has had the greatest impact on crime victims' rights in Virginia during the past 10 years. Jeff was nominated by Chief of Police David Rohrer, Fairfax County Police Department, with support from Paul McNulty, U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Virginia, and former Virginia Governor Mark Warner.



**Jeffrey R. Dion**

### **Victims' Rights Advocates Recognized by the Department of Criminal Justice Services**



Left to right are Cherri Murphy, Mark Vidrine, Jane Sherman Chambers, Harriet McCollum, Ruth Micklem, Mandie Patterson, Mary Vail Ware, and Director Leonard G. Cooke

**Cherri Murphy** is currently President of the Virginia Network for Victims and Witnesses of Crime. She also is the Director of the Charlottesville Victim Witness Program. In addition, Cherri was one of 7 team members, recruited by Karen Thomas; to join a National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) sponsored team that traveled to Ocean Springs, Mississippi for a week in **October 2005** to assist victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

**Mary Vail Ware** is the Director of Virginia's Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, which administers the victims' compensation program. Mary also is a member of the Victim/Witness Issues Subcommittee of our Board. She has worked with the Victims Services Section when she was a VSTOP grantee several years ago.

**Ruth Micklem** is Co-Director of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. Ruth has also served on our V-STOP State Planning Team for five years. Additionally, she was the originator and driving force behind the initiative to establish the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund.

**Harriet C. McCollum** is currently the Family Violence Project Coordinator at the Supreme Court. Like Ruth, Harriet serves on DCJS' V-STOP State Team. She has been the Supreme Court's representative on the team for ten years. Harriet has also provided training on family violence laws for DCJS grantees. Harriet's collaboration with DCJS, the Virginia State Police, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance was one of the keys to the recent successful joint effort to obtain a Grant to Encourage Arrest Policies from the federal Office on Violence Against Women.

**Marcy Wright** is the Executive Director of Transitions Family Violence Services, which provides comprehensive family violence services in the cities of Hampton, Newport News, and Poquoson, as well as in York County. Marcy's contributions to DCJS include her active membership of the V-STOP State Team for over five years, and her regular service as a grant reviewer for the agency.

**Jane Sherman Chambers** is a former V-STOP funded prosecutor, now with the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council. Jane serves on the V-STOP State Team and her assistance in providing a 'prosecutor's perspective' during the recent development of the Sexual Assault Response Team Protocol was invaluable.

**Detective Sergeant Mark Vidrine** is with the Virginia Beach Police Department. Mark supervises the VA Beach PD Domestic Violence Unit. His contributions to DCJS programs and services include: Serving on the V-STOP State Team; assisting DCJS in coordinating and presenting at DCJS sponsored Domestic Violence Training of Trainers events, and; providing a

valuable law enforcement perspective that enhanced the usefulness of the Sexual Assault Response Team Protocol.



## DCJS Employee Recognition Awards

Several members of the Victims Services Section were recognized for their contributions to the Agency. Kathleen Demro was presented with the Director's Award for Community Service and Volunteerism; Deb Downing was presented with the Director's Award for Career Achievement; Karen Thomas was presented with the Director's Special Recognition Award for her work with Hurricane Katrina victims and Candace Miles was presented with the Director's Award for Customer Service.

## New VSS Staff Member

Please welcome our newest staff member to Victims Services! We are pleased to have **Kassandra (Kay) Edwards** join our Team. Kay is our V-STOP/VSDVVF Program Coordinator. She started with us on May 9 and we are delighted to have her on board. Her e-mail is [kassandra.edwards@dcjs.virginia.gov](mailto:kassandra.edwards@dcjs.virginia.gov) at (804) 786-3973.

## State Victim Assistance Academy Grant

DCJS has submitted a grant application to the federal Office for Victims of Crime, for a State Victim Assistance Academy. The first year of the grant (if approved) is a planning period to develop the project and the program model. There will be a steering committee and an advisory committee, which will assist in developing the academy. Thanks to everyone who worked with us on the grant application! We submitted 26 letters of support with our application. For now we just wait to see if we are approved for the grant. We do not expect to hear anything, until late September 2006. VCU and the University of Richmond have agreed to work with us in developing this project.

## DCJS Sexual Violence Training for Trainers

### Training to be held June 21-23, 2006



### Deadline to apply is May 26!!!!

The Department of Criminal Justice Services is providing an opportunity for local law enforcement officers to obtain **advanced skills** in the area of non-stranger, adult sexual assault intervention.

The training will be held **June 21-23, 2006**, at the **Roanoke County Police Department**. This training will involve a **competitive application process**. Interested candidates must apply as a team, which should include a law enforcement officer, a sexual assault crisis center victim advocate, and/or a victim/witness advocate. Prosecutors, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, and others who work with sexual assault victims, are also encouraged to apply.

In-service law enforcement credit will be available.

**Registration and training materials are free.** Successful candidates will receive **scholarships for lodging. Breakfast and lunch are provided.** Participants will be responsible for paying their mileage and dinners.

For further information, visit the Department of Criminal Justice Services website at [www.dcjs.virginia.gov](http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov) or contact Eleanore Ashman, Violence Against Women Policy Analyst, at (804) 225-4060 or [eleanore.ashman@dcjs.virginia.gov](mailto:eleanore.ashman@dcjs.virginia.gov). We encourage you to take advantage of this important, low cost training opportunity.

## Other Important Dates & Trainings

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| May 24, 2006     | <b>Broadening Our Scope: Domestic Violence Services for Survivors with Mental Health Disabilities</b> , Hampton. For more information go to <a href="http://www.vsdvalliance.org/trainingedu.html">www.vsdvalliance.org/trainingedu.html</a>                                       |
| June 1-2, 2006   | <b>Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse Conference</b> , Virginia Beach. For further information contact Edward Ansello at (804) 828-1525 or e-mail, <a href="mailto:earsello@hsc.vcu.edu">earsello@hsc.vcu.edu</a>  |
| June 19-23, 2006 | <b>Finding Words Virginia</b> — Richmond. Information regarding this training is available at <a href="http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/juvenile/cja/findingWords/index.cfm?menuLevel=5&amp;mID=7">www.dcjs.virginia.gov/juvenile/cja/findingWords/index.cfm?menuLevel=5&amp;mID=7</a> |
| June 21-23, 2006 | <b>Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault Training for Trainers</b> . For further information, contact Eleanore Ashman, (804) 225-4060.  |
| June 25-30, 2006 | <b>2006 National Victim Assistance Academy: Foundations in Victim Services</b> , Topeka, Kansas. For further information call (866) 682-8822.  |
| July 9-12, 2006  | <b>2006 National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Conference</b> , Atlanta, Georgia. For further information visit <a href="http://www.ncadv.org/conferences/NCADVConferences_117.html">www.ncadv.org/conferences/NCADVConferences_117.html</a>                                 |

July 19, 2006	Progress Reports Due
July 19, 2006	<b>Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault in the Lesbian /Gay/ Bisexual/Transgender/Questioning Community.</b> For further information contact Becky McKenzie, (434) 979-9002 or <a href="mailto:bmckenzie@vsdvalliance.org">bmckenzie@vsdvalliance.org</a>
July 20, 2006	VSDVAA Membership Meeting
July 26, 2006	VSDVVF Grant Renewal Training, Richmond, Virginia.
August 20-25, 2006	<b>32<sup>nd</sup> Annual North American Victim Assistance Conference</b> , Orlando, Florida. For further information go to <a href="http://www.trynova.org/conference/2006/">www.trynova.org/conference/2006/</a>
Sept. 14, 2006	Criminal Justice Services Board Meeting and V/W Issues Subcommittee Meeting
Sept. 15, 2006	VSDVVF Grants Due (prosecution and victims services grantees)
Sept. 20-22, 2006	Basic Program Management, Richmond, Virginia. For further information, contact Becky Sirles at (804) 786-1980 or <a href="mailto:becky.sirles@dcjs.virginia.gov">becky.sirles@dcjs.virginia.gov</a>
Sept. 21, 2006	VSDVAA Membership Meeting
Sept. 25-29, 2006	<b>Finding Words Virginia</b> — Richmond. Information regarding this training is available at <a href="http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/juvenile/cja/findingWords/index.cfm?menuLevel=5&amp;mID=7">www.dcjs.virginia.gov/juvenile/cja/findingWords/index.cfm?menuLevel=5&amp;mID=7</a>
October 19-20, 2006	<b>Improving Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse</b> , Virginia Beach. For further information, or to be added to the mailing list, please contact Denise Hampton at <a href="mailto:denise.hampton@dcjs.virginia.gov">denise.hampton@dcjs.virginia.gov</a> or at (804) 225-3948.
December 14, 2006	Criminal Justice Services Board Meeting and V/W Issues Subcommittee Meeting

## Resources



The Criminal Justice/ Mental Health Consensus Project is pleased to announce the release of a new issue brief: "Violence Against Women with Mental Illness."

Policymakers and criminal justice/mental health professionals are searching for ways to improve the response to women with mental illness who are victims of crime, and ensure that this population's needs are addressed in their respective service systems. The issue brief summarizes the latest research regarding this issue, identifies some programs and resources that serve women with mental illness who are recent victims of crime, and recommends an action agenda for the federal government. A copy of the issue brief can be downloaded at [www.consensusproject.org](http://www.consensusproject.org)

**For further training opportunities, you may want to sign up with the Virginia Department of Health Listserv. Many of the training announcements we formerly e-mailed to you came from them. We will no longer be forwarding those training announcements. If you are interested in signing up for their listserv, you can do this by doing one of the following:**

- 1) Send a blank email to [VDHsvlist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VDHsvlist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) OR
- 2) Visit the yahoogroups website [www.yahoogroups.com/group/VDHsvlist](http://www.yahoogroups.com/group/VDHsvlist) and click on join now. OR
- 3) Call Rebecca K. Odor at (804) 864-7740 and ask to be added to the listserv.



**The Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance** offers trainings on domestic & sexual violence issues around the state. Visit [www.vsdvalliance.org/secProjects/traininginstitute.html](http://www.vsdvalliance.org/secProjects/traininginstitute.html) for further information.

### ***Grant Money!!!***

#### **Target Family Violence Prevention Grants Target Foundation**

Program: Family violence prevention grants support groups working to make individual homes and entire communities safer, such as funding child abuse counseling programs and shelters. Funding is limited to the communities in which Target does business. Award: Grants average between \$1,000 and \$3,000 - Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status, schools, or units of government. Deadline: May 31, 2006. Application Guidelines/Submission: Visit the Target Foundation website for complete program information and application procedures go to <http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-001818>

#### **Community Awareness and Outreach Campaign Projects for the Prevention of Family Violence US Department of Health & Human Services, Family Violence Prevention and Services Program/FYSB**

Program: This program is to assist in the continual development of outreach and community awareness campaign projects and activities that provide information for the prevention of family violence. Award: Total funding amount - \$750,000; 5 to 10 grants at \$75,000 each. Eligibility: County governments, City or township governments, Native American Tribal governments (Federally recognized), Native American Tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments), nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education. Deadline: June 11, 2006. Application Guidelines/Submission: Visit the website for complete application guidelines/submission. Website: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2006-ACF-ACYF-EV-0126.html#part\\_4\\_1](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2006-ACF-ACYF-EV-0126.html#part_4_1)

#### **Funding Alerts**

If you are interested in receiving funding alerts directly from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, please send your e-mail address to [FUNDINGALERT@PCADV.ORG](mailto:FUNDINGALERT@PCADV.ORG) with Funding Alert in the subject line. The current FUNDING ALERT can be accessed at: <http://www.vawnet.org/Funding/FundingAlert-V1N13.pdf>

### **Send a Survivor to Camp Mabon!**

The goal of the Camp Mabon project is to provide a positive, pivotal, and transformative outdoor experience for twelve (12) women who are survivors of sexual violence. Using a relatively risk-free outdoor experience, seasoned facilitators will gently guide survivors past their comfort zones to increase self-confidence, face and master fears, find strength and comfort in their bodies, and enjoy their senses in the natural world. Camp Mabon will take place at Douthat State Park in Bath County, Virginia from **September 22-24, 2006**, at no cost to participants. Lodging, meals, and materials are all included and assistance with transportation will be provided on a limited basis.

Please contact your local sexual assault crisis center if you would like to recommend a participant. Participants must be age 18 or older, who self-identify as survivors of sexual violence and who are able to do light hiking and stretching. A brief application form must be completed by the participant and submitted by the sexual assault crisis center. Contact Deb Downing at [deb.downing@dcjs.virginia.gov](mailto:deb.downing@dcjs.virginia.gov) or (804) 371-8635 for more information.

***If you have any trainings/activities/employment opportunities you would like to have listed, please send them to Candace Miles at [Candace.miles@dcjs.virginia.gov](mailto:Candace.miles@dcjs.virginia.gov) by the 1st of each month. We will make every effort to include them depending on space and/or time limitations.***

**To access this document go to [www.dcjs.virginia.gov/victims](http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/victims)**

**Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services  
202 North Ninth Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.dcjs.virginia.gov](http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov)**